Capacity of Major Ports to Handle Cargo

126. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made recently with regard to the conditions and capacities of the major ports in the country to handle storage and movement of the goods received at the ports particularly in the case of fertilisers;

(b) if so, what are the deficiencies identified at the various ports; and

(c) what steps have been taken for the infrastructural development at the major ports in the country to remove the deficiencies?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) The present level of traffic at various Major Ports and the existing capacity for handling various commodities and particularly fertilizers is given in the statement (*See below*)

(b) The inadequate storage and clearance facilities are the main deficiencies experienced.

(c) During the 9th Five Year Plan, it is proposed to create additional aggregate port capacity to the tune of around 122 million tonnes, including 8.5 million tonnes for fertilizer. The major ports are being encouraged to create adequate storage/clearance facilities through users/private sector participation.

Statement

Details regarding traffic handled at various major ports during 1996-97, Vis-a-Vis existing cargo handling capacity

(Million Tonnes)

Name of Port	All Commodities		Fertilisers	
	Traffic Handled	Existing Capactiy	Traffic Handled	Existing Capacity
Calcutta	6.02	7.87		
Haldia	17.05	17.70	0.36	—
Paradip	11.58	10.90	0.72	0.10
Visakhapatnam	34.50	31.45	1.28	0.55
Chennai	31.85	25.90	0.90	—
Tuticorin	9.17	7.60	0.50	—
Cochin	11.63	13.46	0.54	0.60
New Mangalore	12.45	16.45	0.25	—
Mormugao	17.37	19.18	0.04	—
Mumbai	33.71	30.80	0.72	—
JL Nehru	8.07	9.90	1.29	2.90
Kandla	33.73	24.00	1.02	0.50
TOTAL	227.13	215.21	7.62	5.65

*Handled at General Cargo Berth